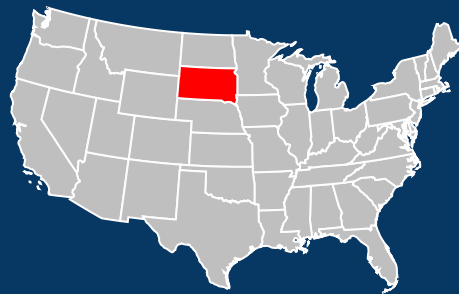




THE NAVAL HISTORY OF SOUTH DAKOTA



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SHIPS



32

At least 32 ships have been named after the state of South Dakota, its cities, places, and people. A few of those ships include:

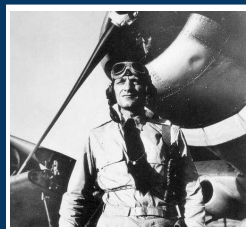
USS Armstrong County (LST 57), 1944
 USS Brule (APA 66), 1944
 USS Brule II (AKL 28), 1952
 USS Butte (APA 68), 1944
 USS Butte II (AE 27), 1968
 USS Codington (AK 173), 1945
 USS Custer (APA 40), 1943
 Dacotah (Steam Sloop), 1860
 Dakotan (No. 3382), 1919
 Douglas County (LST 731), 1944
 USS Grant County (LST 1174), 1957
 USS Hollister (DD 788), 1946
 Huron I (Screw Steamer), 1862
 Huron II (Iron Sloop-Rigged Steamer), 1875
 USS Huron III (ID 1408), 1917
 USS Huron IV (Armored Cruiser), 1920

USS Huron V (PF 19), 1944
 USS Lake County (LST 880), 1945
 USS Lawrence County (LST 887), 1944
 USS Lincoln County (LST 898), 1944
 USS Lyman County (LST 903), 1945
 USS Oglala (CM 4), 1917
 USS Potter County (LST 1086), 1945
 USS Rushmore I (LSD 14), 1944
 USS Rushmore II (LSD 47), 1991
 South Dakota I (ACR 9), 1908
 USS South Dakota II (BB 57), 1942
 USS South Dakota III (SSN 790), 2019
 USS Waldron (DD 699), 1944
 USS Walworth County (LST 1164), 1953
 USNS Watertown (T-AGM 6), 1944
 Yankton (Yacht), 1898

USS South Dakota (BB 57)

USS South Dakota, the lead ship of a class of 35,000-ton battleships, was built at Camden, New Jersey. She was commissioned in March 1942 and in August was transferred to the Pacific where she was soon involved in the Guadalcanal Campaign. On Oct. 26, 1942, her anti-aircraft guns played a prominent role in the Battle of the Santa Cruz Islands, during which her forward 16-inch gun turret was hit by a Japanese bomb. Shortly thereafter, she collided with USS Mahan (DD 364). USS South Dakota was the most decorated battleship during World War II.

PEOPLE



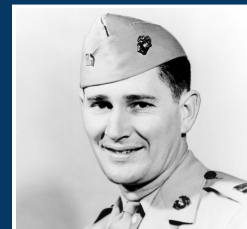
John C. Waldron Naval Aviator

John Charles Waldron was born in Fort Pierre, SD and graduated from the Naval Academy in 1924. In 1941, Lt. Cmdr. Waldron led the newly-formed VT-8 that was embarked on the new fleet carrier Hornet (CV 8). During the Battle of Midway, on June 4, Waldron's squadron searched for, found, and attacked the enemy. Of the 30 men in the group, only one, Ensign George H. Gay Jr., survived. Torpedo Squadron 8 earned the Presidential Unit Citation and Waldron posthumously received the Navy Cross. USS Waldron (DD 699) was named in his honor.



Cecil E. "Cece" Harris Captain

A Cresbard, SD, native, Harris was one of the Navy's flying aces, shooting down 24 enemy planes in less than six weeks in November 1944. Harris not only engaged in dogfights, but he also knocked out grounded planes and attacked Japanese airfields and battleships. He received the Navy Cross, the Distinguished Flying Cross with two gold stars, and the Air Medal with two gold stars. After 44 combat missions, his plane had not been touched by a single enemy bullet, a feat that his fellow pilots agreed was due to his remarkable flying touch.



Joseph Jacob Foss Medal of Honor Recipient

Born in Sioux Falls, SD, Foss served at Guadalcanal where he saw almost daily combat. He shot down 23 Japanese planes and damaged many others. On Jan. 25, 1943, Foss and his group shot down four fighters and forced enemy bombers to turn back without releasing a single bomb. For his actions on that day, Foss was awarded the Medal of Honor. After the war, Foss returned to South Dakota, started a business, and later became governor. He also was the first commissioner of the American Football League and hosted television shows.

PLACES



Navy Operational Support Center Sioux Falls

A Navy Operational Support Center, or NOSC, is a facility used to provide operational support for training and administrative services to Navy Reserve Units. There is a NOSC in Sioux Falls, SD. There is also a Navy Recruiting Center in Sioux Falls for those interested in enlisting in the U.S. Navy.

